

SUGGESTED REMARKS
Jon D. Lindborg
Mission Director, USAID/Manila
LEAD Project Closing Ceremony Event
August 17, 2006; 10:00 AM
7/F Grand Ballroom
Pan Pacific Hotel
Malate, Manila

Undersecretary Ethelyn Nieto of the
Department of Health,
Governors (list to be provided),
Mayors,
Executive Director Tom Osias of the
Commission on Population,
PhilHealth Officer-in-Charge Lorna Fajardo
Distinguished friends and colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

"Magandang umaga sa inyong lahat." (Good
Morning to all)

I am honored and delighted to join you in
celebrating the many achievements of Local
Government Units (LGUs) in health
governance.

Since the time health services were devolved
to the LGUs by virtue of the Local

Government Code, the U.S. Government and the American people have been a partner in helping achieve health goals in the context of local autonomy and decentralization. Over the last ten years, USAID assistance to the national and local governments has helped bring about efficient, effective and equitable health services. And USAID takes pride in having been a constant and consistent partner in various reform efforts that continue to evolve in the health sector.

Among these efforts was the Health Finance Development Project from 1992 to 1995. This project supported the Department of Health's (DOH) efforts to help Local Government augment finances for public health in response to decentralization of health services brought about by the passage of the Local Government Code. The Integrated Family Planning and Maternal Health Program followed, and, from 1995 to 2003 assisted LGUs to manage and deliver quality health services through the LGU Performance Program (LPP); and the Matching Grants Program (MGP) where quality standards for the

certification of public health facilities through the "Sentrong Sigla" (Centers for Wellness) program were developed.

The Health Sector Reform Technical Assistance Project, implemented from 1999 to 2002, also supported the DOH in developing its Health Sector Reform Agenda (HSRA), which is the foundation of the present day "Fourmula One" initiative of the DOH. This paved the way for the improvement of social health insurance, implementation of hospital reforms and the development of local health systems and drug management in eight provinces.

Related to all these, the Governance and Local Development (GOLD) Project, from 1995 to 2001, assisted local governments to manage revenues and resources, strengthen the Leagues of Cities and Municipalities and improve local government performance measurement.

In the past three years, development assistance from the American people has provided US\$34 million through the Local

Enhancement and Development (LEAD) for Health Project to help strengthen the governance and service capacities of LGUs in providing quality family planning, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, vitamin A supplementation and HIV/AIDS services.

In addition, USAID supports the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. For the past two years, the U.S. Government has contributed \$500 million to the Fund, which is 25% of the expected total budget of \$2 billion for the Fund.

In all these efforts, USAID continuously works closely with our Philippine partners: the DOH, participating LGUs, POPCOM, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, and the Leagues of Municipalities and Cities.

These programs and projects constitute major building blocks that helped the health sector successfully realize the principles of local autonomy, decentralization and local governance.

USAID is happy to have supported the DOH in articulating the Philippines Contraceptive Self Reliance (CSR) initiative clarifying and enunciating the CSR policy. The DOH Administrative Order No. 158 of 2004 clearly articulates the elements of the country's CSR policy, and provides guidelines for its implementation.

We congratulate the DOH and partners for pursuing policy development initiatives intended to generate strong policy and financing support to make the health sector effective, efficient and equitable in producing health outcomes, particularly in FP, TB-DOTS, Vitamin A supplementation and HIV/AIDS.

USAID recognizes the LGUs' long term role in building political leadership for health. We congratulate the governors, mayors and the local governments for their commitment to manage and sustain effective health programs in their localities. USAID, is pleased to have forged a strategic alliance with the Leagues of Municipalities (LMP) and Cities (LCP) and among the various

stakeholders. The LMP's "Kung Maliit ang Pamilya, Kayang-Kaya" campaign has resulted in LGU resolutions and actions pushing for implementation of the DOH's reproductive health and responsible parenthood programs in municipalities, with mayors taking the lead role. We are also encouraged to see the cities themselves recognize the importance of HIV/AIDS surveillance and assume the responsibility for sustaining the AIDS surveillance system. The fight against AIDS continues and the American people continue to support efforts in this regard.

USAID is honored to be a vital partner in the development of the Autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Strategy for Health Improvement (ASHI), which has become the accepted approach for health development in ARMM.

Finally, USAID congratulates the DOH for organizing this forum to recognize the achievements of the national and local governments to improve health in the Philippines. We are honored and proud to

have assisted the GRP in making these achievements happen.

I wish you all a fruitful forum and a pleasant morning.

"Maraming salamat po." (Thank you)